

Skygac's Column

Roger Babson, Frank A. Vanderlip, John D. Rockefeller Jr., Theodore Price, are names to conjure with. If any one set of men may be expected to have an accurate knowledge of the world's financial pulse these men are the ones who ought to know economic and political conditions. Yet these men sent a message to the Interchurch World session, and attended by over a thousand ministers, that ought to make the politicians sit up and take notice. Here is the message:

"That no force will serve to maintain social order except a reawakening of a national religious spirit."

Of course they mean when they speak of social order, THE (present) social order \$ \$ \$ \$ (of legalized robbery of the toilers through the wages system).

They have tried the force of government thru the despotic measures of such men as Palmer, Hoey, Judge Landis and their ilk.

They have tried the force of the constabulary and the state militia and the standing army.

They have tried the force of political buncombe via the too old parties and the too new ones too.

Now the spokesmen for the economic overlords of capitalism plainly tell us that NO FORCE except a reawakening of a national religious spirit will save the social order.

If such be the case we might as well begin now to be reconciled to our fate, for there is NO HOPE of any such an awakenink. That same conference reported one denomination having 17,000 churches with 12,000 of them vacant every Sunday. The average ministerial salary, less than \$900.00 a year and country churches falling at the rate of 11% a year. Such is the broken reed upon which capitalism rests, according to these spokesmen!

Milo D. Campbell, chairman of the National board of farm organizations in a recent message to the national conference says:

"The U. S. Grain Corporation is about to turn into the National Treasury fifty million dollars. — profit made by buying wheat at a legally fixed price and selling it abroad at a great profit."

Robbing the farmer and "selling wheat abroad at a great profit": No dear reader, this isn't the record of the terrible Bolsheviks, neither is it in the program of the reds. It is the simple truth about what the politicians of this country are doing. And you are partly to blame if you allow them to do it without protest. We have heard much of the starving races of Europe and it is our idea that "selling wheat abroad at a great profit" is probably one of the direct causes of the starvation. Such procedure may be Christian, at least the ones doing it claim to be Christians, but it is mighty poor evidence of their love for humanity.

Senator Murphy in a letter to Gov. Edwards writes:

"It is also my prayer that the Democrat Party will not be so assuaging as to select a leader who poses with a pay-check from the Anti Saloon League in one hand and a bottle of grape juice in the other."

He wants a president that will remain in Washington and look after the affairs of the nation rather than to frolic with the squirrels on the Champs Elysees."

That cabinet of Wilson's seems to be an unstable affair. Wilson evidently never could qualify as a cabinetmaker. When Lansing was "fired" because he had unofficially called the cabinet together during Wilson's illness, where was the manhood of the rest of the cabinet? A bunch of good union men would have made Wilson fire the whole cabinet! Members of the Cabinet come and go but thru it all Barleson the Autocrat of the means of communication still sticks.

"The answer is that America needs to set her house in order from top to bottom" — that was the last line in

an editorial in one of the leading stand-pat organs of the country — a paper that has always been cock-sure that everything was all right except for the pernicious activity of the radicals. Now comes the confession quoted above. Oh well, murder will out.

The morning paper tells us that business relations will be opened with Soviet Russia for four reasons, first that Bolshevism is here to stay, secondly that there is no such thing as Bolshevism, thirdly that Lenin and Trotsky no longer believe in Communism but in Capitalism and fourthly that trade with Russia will strengthen the bonds of Capitalism.

I can name their four reasons in four words, business, bonds and profits.

There can be no profit without a corresponding loss.

The American Bourgeoisie class has made enormous profits the past five years? Who stood the loss that is represented by that enormous profit? The working-class of course. If there was an enormous profit there must have been an enormous loss to it any wonder the powers that be find it increasingly difficult to keep the working class contented?

There is now only one way to keep the workers contented and that is to keep them in ignorance of the economics of industry. One hour's study of the profit and loss side of industry will make any red-blooded American worker discontented with the present capitalist order of society.

How things have changed! It used to be the way of the transgressor is hard, but since the days of the Wilson-Palmer-Barleson administration it can truthfully be said, the way of the benefactor is hard.

Prohibition has its compensating side at that. The Revolution will not have a chance to degenerate into a rumbel-ton.

Goodness Gracious—even the Cardinals of the Pope of Rome have asked for an increase of salary, claiming that they cannot make both ends meet with their present salary. Everybody seems to be doing it now.

They never miss an opportunity to point out that the socialists, the radicals and the reds are an ungodly, heathen absolutely devoid of religion. Now with the official report that the churches are failing at the rate of 11% a year does that mean that the reds are gaining at that rate?

Wonder what those striking Cardinals would do if they were compelled to live on a workingman's wages?

Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, in leaving his position at the University of Pennsylvania, out of love for the institution in whose service he has grown old is quoted by the press as follows:

"I have out a cent in the world I have been a teacher all my life. That is a wonderful but unremunerative work."

A country can not gracefully brag of its greatness, when it allows its teachers to be unrewarded and cast upon the scrap-heap after a lifetime spent in usefulness.

52,000 Americans emigrated to Canada last year. There must be a reason.

With ordinary shoes quoted at \$14-21 a pair how long will it be before the working class has "no sole for its foot but the sod"?

And there is mighty little sod in the industrial centers!

And what little there may be is protected by the sign,

Keep off the Grass.

A Call to Labor to Stand by its Own

Three Ohio Comrades have been indicted for revolutionary activities and are being tried in the capitalist courts. The defense of these comrades will cost hundreds of dollars. The transcripts of evidence and legal papers alone, will mount to high figures. The costs must be paid. The comrades deserve the help of every liberty loving person. The indictments against them are in a way, indictments of the workers and the political organization which they have formed as a means of achieving their emancipation from the chains of wage slavery. These comrades are among the most loyal workers for Socialism in this state. Your help in these cases is well deserved—and it is needed—at once.

Lotta Burke.

Thirteen Socialist Party members and members of the Communist Labor Party at Cincinnati, among them Lotta Burke, member of the State Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party of Ohio, are out on bond while their cases are appealed to a higher court. They have been convicted of conspiracy to defeat the conscription act at the beginning of the war against Germany. Any one who knows Lotta Burke knows the falsity of such a charge. But she has been sentenced a year and a quarter in the Penitentiary. And she will have to spend these 15 months in prison unless the sentence is reversed in a higher court. Money is needed in this case and every worker should assist in defraying the costs.

Marguerite Prevey.

At this writing, Marguerite Prevey is in jail at Chicago while her attorneys are attempting to have her released and returned to Ohio. Elsewhere in this issue, the account of this case is given. But the tremendous significance of the case of comrade Prevey should be realized by every worker and member of the Communist Labor Party. If she is returned to Ohio and the higher courts deny her extradition to Illinois it will mean that no Ohio resident can be extradited from this state on charges of having aided in the organization of the Communist Labor Party. It will establish the fact that this working-class political party was NOT organized for the purpose of overthrowing the government "by violence and unlawful means" as charged in the Chicago indictments. Winning this case means the establishment of an absolutely legal status for the Party and will settle the question of whether it is lawful or unlawful to be a member of it.

Because of the great importance of this case, aside from the purely humanitarian and class character of it, we call upon every loyal and class conscious worker to help defray the costs.

Charles Baker

During the recent miner's strike, Charles Baker toured the mining regions of the state of Kansas. He visited many localities and held rousing miner's meetings in all of them. The striking miners of Kansas, than whom there are no workers more loyal to their class, attended his meetings by the thousands and made them the most enthusiastic ever held there.

The capitalist class took cognizance of these worker's meetings. They saw that if they continued, it meant the rousing of the workers and the further spread of revolt against their exploitation. The capitalist state at once brought into play its ready weapon, the Lever act, a war time measure calculated to keep the slave class chained to its slavery while the war profiteers grew sleek and fat off of their toil and sweat.

Because Baker backed up the miners and taught the facts of the class struggle and their exploitation, he was indicted by a grand jury at Kansas City. He is now out on bail while the case is pending. Baker is known to practically every socialist in Ohio and has made hundreds of speeches here and in adjoining states. No worker in the Movement is more universally liked than is Baker. His personality, his sincerity and loyalty to the workingclass have won him thousands of admiring friends. Baker has not a dollar. If he is to have adequate defense the funds must be secured from those who know and value his work for working class emancipation. To these thousands of friends of his and to other workers who appreciate years of conscientious work for our cause, we must appeal for funds to defend him.

These cases call not for donations of pennies, but of dollars and many of them. They must be had at once. Right now, hundreds of dollars are needed. Expenses are piling up daily and must be paid as the cases progress. We call upon you who read these lines to give and to collect funds at once for the comrades' defense. Don't delay, funds are needed NOW. Use the blank below to remit your first subscription.

FOR PREVEY, BURKE AND BAKER'S DEFENSE.

The Toiler, 3207 Clark Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio.

I appreciate what is at stake in these cases.

Enclosed find \$..... for defraying the costs of the defense of these comrades.

Name

Street address

City State

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AT BUSHNELL HALL

Every Sunday evening 7:30

Good Speakers—Live Subjects
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The Black Sheep.

Chapt. XXI.

Philosophy (continued)

"Now getting a living and enjoying life seems to be the object of all our striving, and what is more natural to strive along the lines of least resistance. The property owning class exploits us in order that they may live as it seems best to them; they do not hate us any more than a hunter hates a duck; we are their legitimate prey. When we rebel against direct exploitation they kill us; history is full of such examples as you yourself have told me. This class struggle of which you speak is not a matter of morals; it is a matter of position. And position depends on two things, first one must be at the place of opportunity before the crowd arrives and second he must have the brain to recognize an advantage when it presents itself and the courage to make it his own.

"I belong to the working class and as long as I do, it is to my interest that they should be organized to protect themselves from the aggressions of the boss; but believe me the first chance I have to get out of it and live fat in the halls of the mighty — I go. The fat pastures look good to Jack Thurston."

"Fat chance you have of getting out of the working class," remarked Collins, "now that capitalism is developing by leaps and bounds. In a few years there will not be an opportunity to get a hold of any property worth speaking of, if you had a head as big as a bushel basket, and a wad as big as a blanket."

"I know it," Jack answered, "but knowing what the working class is up against from within and without I can see for them only a hopeless and endless struggle; a ceaseless warfare between the House of Have and the House of Want, with the advantage always on the side of the possessing class. There is an old saying that possession is nine points of the law."

"But how are you going to get possession except by organized effort," Rudolph asked.

"Who ever said that you were going to get possession as a class? Slaves are not bred to possess. I will grant you that the present masters may be overthrown by a political or even violent revolution; that's only natural. Death comes to all things including the ruling groups of finance. They cannot last forever. But because your ruling groups must pass away that does not mean that your irresponsible, mutually antagonistic, hopelessly helpless and abjectly servile mass will possess themselves of the reins of power. No, your revolutions have always meant, and will always mean simply a change of masters. One group of dominants falling and another group of dominants rising. I might paraphrase Tennyson, "Masters come and masters go. But the slave toils on forever."

"Our class is determined by our method of getting a living. Our method of getting a living is determined by our mental inclinations. Our mental inclinations are determined by our brain type. Our brain types are determined by biological variations, due to certain flukes of nature as yet not fully understood by science. This also holds true for masters. Masters rise from dominant types but are, intermarried with inferior types from time to time. This destroys their dominance and another group of masters arises in their stead. Then there is an another factor. Masters are simply human. They are adapted to the environment with which they find themselves. But the evolution of the machinery of production, the extension of commerce and trade continually changes that environment and is a great factor in the rise and fall of master groups. If my logic is not at fault then the new masters do not rise from the working class, nor from the master class but from that biological third estate that belongs to neither; from it arises our leaders in the financial, the political, and the industrial world. Genius is what controls human affairs; economic evolution is what forces the world's great transformation. Genius rises from humanity both master and slave. It knows no class; it knows no heredity; it is a spontaneous variation that meets a certain requirement at a certain time. That and that alone is genius. As for the classes they change from kings to patricians, from patricians to priests and nobles, from nobles to bourgeois, from bourgeois to merchant princes. They change to meet the requirements of industrial development and will continue so to change as long as evolution exists. The blonde beast always on top.

"On the other hand we've had the slave, the freedman, the serf, and now the wage slave — they too have changed their form according to the industrial requirement of each historical epoch. Both classes are in the grasp of the inexorable law of development, but both classes remain true to type, the one as master and the other as slave, and between the two is the unrecognized middle ground that keeps up and vitalizes both."

"It would be a good thing if you would croak right now," said Collins, "that damned argument of yours would sow pessimism in the heart of a jumping jack. I know that you are wrong, in fact I feel it, but I can't answer you. At least not yet."

Jack smiled, "if what I say is truth then how are we going to get away from it. There is really no use in fighting gravitation."

"But Jack see here, listen," Rudolph broke in, waving his hands in the air, "our agitation, our education, economic development, all will work together to awaken labor to a consciousness of its power. We will teach them to recognize the tyranny of capital, and the benefits of co-operative efforts. We will teach them how to fill the world with peace and plenty, how to fight the fires of joy on the lips of love. It is the historic mission of the working class to take possession of industry. Karl Marx says so in the first volume of capital, haven't you read it. He proved it in the Communist Manifesto that labor must awaken to a consciousness of its collective power, or as one of the poets put it:

"We shall laugh to scorn your power, that has held a world in awe.

We shall trample on your customs, and shall spit upon your law,

We shall come up from life's desert to your burdened banquet hall,

We shall turn your wine to wormwood, and your honey into gall."

"Isn't it too bad that nature's most beautiful flowers, those which are so rich in color and fragrance do never bear seeds. Now if we could only fill the world with souls such as Rudolph then all our troubles would be over," commented Jack dryly. "But the fact is that the mass of mankind does not look at things as he does. Is it well for us to range with science, glorying in the time. While city children soil a sicken, soul and sense in city slime."

And from the other cell Rudolph continued the quotation, "Where the master shrimps his haggard seamstress of her daily bread, Where a single sordid attic holds the living and the dead, Where the smoldering fire of fever crawls across the rotted floor, and the crowded couch holds incest, in the warrens of the poor."

"Oh, for God's sake cut it, when ever you try to talk sense your brain takes fire," Collins said. "Let's get back to the subject. History and evolution both teach the progress of life is always in the direction of higher and better organization. That fact alone proves to me that labor's organization must go and will go on until it is perfected, and the perfection of labor's organization will mean its ownership and control of the socially necessary means of life. When that is accomplished, not only labor but the world will be free, simply because labor will be the world."

"Divinely free to work and love, agreed Rudolph. "It sounds plausible, but to my mind there is a rattle in it. There is something about it that is not true to nature; it sounds too much like an orthodox sermon. It is a statement of the desires of your brain and not of the facts of existence." Said the boy, Then after a pause he went on.

"I am willing to admit that I may be mistaken, I am not sufficiently familiar with human history and the evolution of industrial processes, to take an unqualified argument upon them. But if I am not mistaken, history teaches us how successive generations of men have managed to survive, successive changes in environment. Industrial evolution teaches us that the changes in production that have taken place in the past are but the logical outcome of man's increasing need. All history is but the story of man's struggle to adapt himself to the changing order of things. While I am short on a knowledge of history, I do know something of nature and nature's methods. I have learned to observe things as they are and since I have been introduced to the class struggle and you have told me of its history, I have noticed three types in the human race. One type whose object in life is to own and control, another type whose object it is to produce and bring forth, and still another between these two that sends its members into both classes to renew and vitalize them when they become old and staid. Now I am willing to admit that this thing may come to an end. As I have said all things come to an end, and the human race is no exception. Still industrial mastery will die out with the passing of the markets, then there will arise an intellectual master which in its expression may be more tyrannical than the industrial masters of today.

"You must not forget that when the industrial problem is solved thru the collective ownership of the means of production and distribution, granting that that day will come, that the conflicting types still exist and will ex-

(Cont. on page 4.)

Advance in subscription price

The subscription price of The Toiler will be advanced to \$1.50 per year beginning April 1st. We are compelled by the constantly rising prices of paper and general printing costs to make this advance.

A special opportunity will be given our readers until April 1st to renew their subscription at the old rate of \$1.00 a year. This opportunity is extended to all regardless of the time of expiration of their subscriptions. By order of the State Executive Committee.



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